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## **PRESS RELEASE**

(Amended)

### **U.S. Embassy Grants Rs 270,000 to Mauritian Non-Governmental Organizations**

On Wednesday, August 12, 2009, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Craig White signed grant agreements on behalf of the United States Government to fund three non-governmental organizations, ranging from an environmental educational program to women empowerment programs, for a total amount of Rs 271,998. The beneficiaries of these grants are Women in Networking (WIN), SOS Femmes and Dive Dream Diving Center.

The grant to WIN will assist the newly founded political wing of the NGO, namely, Women in Politics (WIP) in funding communication campaigns in view of the next general elections to ensure that women achieve a minimum of 30% representation in the Mauritian National Assembly.

The U.S. Embassy is also pleased to contribute to the construction of the new shelter for SOS Femmes in Coromandel, by financing part of the furniture including settees, beds and cradles.

The third grant to Dive Dream Diving Center aims at assisting the diving center in organizing an underwater and beach cleanup at Trou-aux-Biches on September 19, 2009. This project will be undertaken in the context of Project AWARE International Cleanup Day 2009 and aims at educating people on the importance of environmental awareness.